

favourable micro-economic outcomes, including immediate restoration of balance of payments stability. Indian foreign currency assets (Excluding gold and SDR) has improved continuously from a mere US \$ 1 billion in July, 1991 to US \$ 26.2 billion at the end of October, 1997.

[English]

Dankuni Coal Complex

543. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dankuni Coal Complex (DCC) has been suffering from severe financial crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DCC has huge loan outstanding with Coal India Ltd.;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the bye-products of this unit are not properly marketed;

(f) so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Dankuni Coal Complex (DCC), a Low Temperature Carbonisation (LTC) plant at Dankuni, West Bengal, has incurred a loss of Rs. 20 crores (provisional) during the financial year (April 97 – October 97).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c).

(e) and (f) For proper marketing of bye-products, stockists have been appointed at Bombay and Calcutta. However, due to import liberalisation policy, tar chemicals are facing steep global competition.

(g) The following measures are being taken to improve the economic viability of DCC:—

(i) Dialogue with the Govt. of West Bengal to improve the off-take of gas to Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation (GCGSC) for improved capacity utilisation of the plant as well as to persuade the GCGSC to pay remunerative price of gas.

(ii) To produce value added chemicals like chloroxycenol, chlorophenol, etc.

Indo-Dutch Project of Kanpur

544. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 492 dated February 25, 1997 and state:

(a) whether agreement with regard to the Indo-Dutch project in Kanpur, U.P. which has already been cleared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests has been signed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A grant agreement for an amount of NLG 51.240 million for the project "Ganga Action Plan Support Project (GAPSP)" has been signed between Govt. of India and Govt. of Netherlands on 23/7/97. The objectives of the project are:

- to reduce the pollution load of the river Ganga;
- to improve the urban environment in the Indian context, thereby improving the living conditions of urban citizens, especially slum dwellers.

The duration of the project is expected to be 4 years from 1st October, 1996 to 1st October, 2000.

[Translation]

Export of Granite

545. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has prominent phase in the export of granite in the international market;

(b) whether India is facing stiff competition in this field in the International Market; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of granite?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Indian granite exports have increased from Rs. 50 crores in 1985 to Rs. 1065 crore in 1995-96. India's share in the world market is 14%. India is facing stiff competition from countries like Peoples Republic of Korea, Italy, China, South Africa.

(c) In order to boost the export of processed granite, Ministry of Commerce have recently organised a Conference of State Ministers of Mines on development of granite industries and exports in which the problems of granite industry were discussed and suggestions made included grant of 80 HHC benefit to be made available to suppliers of granite blocks to EOUs; ceiling of duty free imports of capital goods be reduced and granite EOUs be permitted to import mining equipments also under the EPCG scheme among others.